

Case 3607

***Haltica (Dibolia) schillingii* Letzner, 1847 (Insecta, Coleoptera, CHRYSOMELIDAE): proposed precedence over flea-beetle *Petalopus metallicus* Motschulsky, 1845 (currently *Dibolia metallica*)**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3 and 81 of the Code, is to conserve the name *Dibolia schillingii* (Letzner, 1847), for a flea-beetle species (CHRYSOMELIDAE, ALTICINAE OR GALERUCINAE, ALTICINI) widespread in western Palaearctic, by giving it precedence over the unused older name *Dibolia metallica* (Motschulsky, 1845), whenever these names are considered to be synonyms.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; *Coleoptera*; CHRYSOMELIDAE; *Dibolia*; flea-beetle; Palaearctic.

1. In 1845 (p. 107) Victor de Motschulsky published descriptions of several Caucasian ALTICINI, including a new genus, *Petalopus*, based on a new species, *Petalopus metallicus*. *P. metallicus* was characterised by the strongly widened basal segment of the protarsi. Motschulsky, 1845 compared this species with *Dibolia cynoglossi* (Koch, 1803). Its type material is preserved in the Zoological Museum of the Moscow Lomonosov State University, Russia. *Petalopus metallicus* Motschulsky, listed as ‘?metallica Motsch.’ was obviously considered a doubtful synonym of ‘*Dibolia Schillingii* Letzn. 1846’ in the main source of taxonomic information for ALTICINI, the *Coleopterorum Catalogus* pars 169 (Heikertinger, 1940, p. 493. The catalogue gives under *metallica* three additional citations: ‘Ws. Naturgesch. Ins. Deutschl. Col. VI, 1893, p. 1030. - ?Jacobson, Öft. Finsk. Vörh. XLIII, 1900–1901, p.145 (As. ross.). Ogloblin, Eos VI, 1930, p. 110’. The characters given by Weise (1893) in his treatment of *D. metallica* indicate obvious misidentification, probably referring to *Dibolia tricolor* Reitter, 1898. To which species the citations of Jacobson, 1900–1901 refer remains unknown. Ogloblin (1930) examined the type material of *Petalopus metallicus* Motschulsky and stated it was conspecific with *Dibolia schillingii* Letzner. He published the new synonymy in a paper dealing with Oriental ALTICINI present in the collection of V. Motschulsky. This is possibly the reason why it was overlooked by most subsequent European workers. The name *Dibolia metallica* (Motschulsky) was used as valid only five times since 1900, by Medvedev & Shapiro, 1965; Shapiro, 1969; Medvedev, 2006; Bienkowski 1999, 2004. A study of the respective type material by the senior author confirmed the synonymy of *D. schillingii* and *D. metallica*.

2. In 1847 Karl Letzner published the description of a new species, *Haltica* (*Dibolia*) *schillingii*. It was compared to *Dibolia cynoglossi* as was Motschulsky's *P. metallicus*. Letzner named the new species in honour of his friend Peter S. Schilling. The type material of *schillingii* is deposited in the Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg, Germany. Heikertinger (1940) gave 24 references for *Dibolia schillingii* in the *Coleopterorum Catalogus* pars 169. Khnzorian-Iablokoff (1968) based a new subgenus of *Dibolia*, *Eudibolia* on this species. The two recognized junior synonyms, *Dibolia punctillata* Foudras, 1860 and *D. schillingii* var. *ciliciensis* Heikertinger, 1911 were associated with *D. schillingii*, and not with *D. metallica*.

3. Mohr (1981) provided a revision of the Palaearctic species of *Dibolia*, and commented (p. 410) [translation from German]: 'Ogloblin, 1930, could study the type of *Petalopus metallicus* Motschulsky, 1845 that is housed in the Zoological Museum of Moscow University. He stated the synonymy of *P. metallicus* and *D. schillingii*. For priority reasons the species should be named *D. metallica*, but *D. schillingii* [sic] has been exclusively in use for more than 100 years, therefore I retain it.'

4. *Dibolia schillingii* (Letzner, 1847) (formerly *Haltica*) is a well-known species widely distributed from western Europe to Kazakhstan, associated with *Salvia pratensis*, *S. nemorosa*, and *S. verticillata*. The name *schillingii* was often incorrectly spelled with one 'i'. The name is currently in use in papers on taxonomy, distribution, and biology of flea-beetles. Recent works using this name and its author in the last 50 years are: Biondi, 1990; Biondi et al., 1995; Böhme, 2001; Brelih et al., 2003; Borowiec, 1983; Burakowski et al. 1991; Čížek, 2006; Čížek & Doguet, 2008; Derenne, 1963; Döberl, 2010; Doguet, 1994; Gruev, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1998, 2003a, 2003b, 2003c, 2003d; Gruev & Döberl, 1997, 2005; Gruev & Tomov, 1986, 1998, 2007; Gruev et al. 1993, 1994; Kaszab, 1962a, 1962b; Khnzorian-Iablokoff, 1968, 1983; Konnerth-Ionescu, 1963; Konstantinov & Vandenberg, 1996; Lopatin, 1977, 1984; Lopatin & Kulenova, 1986; Medvedev, 2006; Mohr, 1966; 1969, 1981; Negru & Rosca, 1967; Rozner, 1990; Strejček, 1993; Vig, 1996; Warchałowski, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1998, 2010. Because of the five publications using the senior name (cited under para. 1), the junior name cannot be maintained under Article 23.9.1.1 of the Code (1999), despite being in prevailing usage. Therefore the case is referred to the Commission under Article 23.9.3 of the Code.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the name *schillingii* Letzner, 1847, as published in the binomen *Haltica schillingii*, precedence over the name *metallica* Motschulsky, 1845, as published in the binomen *Petalopus metallicus*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *schillingii* Letzner, 1847, as published in the binomen *Haltica schillingii*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *metallicus* Motschulsky, 1845, as published in the binomen *Petalopus metallicus*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *metallicus* Motschulsky, 1845, as published in the binomen *Petalopus metallicus*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *schillingii* Letzner, 1847, as published in the binomen *Haltica schillingii*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

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